



# Postilla

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## NEW BIRDS FROM THE WESTERN PAPUAN ISLANDS

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As a preliminary to further publications on the work of the 1954 Yale Peabody Museum Expedition to the Moluccas, I should like to describe the following new forms of birds collected on the trip undertaken by myself and my wife. Following our departure from Netherlands New Guinea in December, 1954, my assistant, Jusup Khakiaj, made a small collection of birds on the Islands of Misool, the Schildpads, Kofiau and Waigeu in early 1955. In addition to funds from Yale, my work was financed by a Fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation as well as a Grant from the National Science Foundation. To the authorities of these organizations I am deeply grateful. I must also record my thanks to Drs. Dean Amadon and Charles Vaurie of the American Museum of Natural History, and Mr. R. M. de Schauensee of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences for help in examining specimens in their care.

*Aepyodius arfakianus misoliensis* subsp. nov.

Type: ♀ ad. (Y.P.M., no. 36560), collected November 22, 1954, by S. Dillon Ripley ten kilometers W.N.W. of Tamulol, Misool Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

**Diagnosis:** Compared to *arfakianus*, a series of three specimens, have more slender, slimmer bills which appear not so highly arched as in the mainland population from New Guinea. In addition, the feathers of the vent are tipped with slaty-gray, paler and lighter than in New Guinea birds, and the chestnut of the upper and under tail coverts is duller, less rich in appearance. This population appears to be smaller in size also.

**Measurements:**

<i>arfakianus</i> 9 ♂ ♂ ♀ ♀		
wing	tail	bill (from ext. naris)
260-272 (267.8) mm.	130-149 (141.9)	20-22 (21.4)
 <i>misoliensis</i> 3 ♂ ♀ ♀		
wing	tail	bill (from ext. naris)
243, 261.5, 264 mm.	131.5, 141.5	19, 20, 21.5

**Range:** Misool Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

**Remarks:** The occurrence of this large Bush Turkey on Misool Island as well as Cuvier's Bush Turkey, *Talegalla cuvieri*, is a remarkable discovery. It is planned to publish detailed comments on these species at a later date.

*Eos squamata attenua*, subsp. nov.

**Type:** ♀ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 36561) collected March 22, 1955, by Jusup Khakiaj on Kamoia I. Schildpad Is. north of Misool.

**Diagnosis:** From *squamata* this form differs by having a much reduced nuchal collar. Only one specimen of three shows a patch on the nape of the neck, and in all the specimens the prominent patch on the foreneck and upper breast extending to the throat is lacking or only lightly indicated with a few purplish blue tips to the feathers. The under surface of the tails of these birds tends to be rather brighter and more reddish, more like *obiensis*. From this form as well as

MAY 23 1957

NEW GUINEA  
UNIVERSITY

March 28, 1957 *New Birds from Western Papuan Islands* 3

*guenbiensis* it differs, however, in lacking the purplish occipital spot, the pronounced collar, and, in *obiensis*, the black scapulars and greater wing coverts.

Range: Kamoia, Lophon and presumably in the rest of the group of the Schildpad Is., north of Misool.

*Crateroscelis murina fumosa* subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 36562) collected Nov. 18, 1954, by S. Dillon Ripley inland from Tamulol, Misool Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

Diagnosis: This form is nearest *capitalis* from Waigeu from which it differs in the male in the head being darker, more blackish brown. Below in both sexes Misool birds are much more reddish on the underparts. Compared to *C. m. monarcha* from the Aru Islands this population appears to be much more richly colored. Like *capitalis* the Misool birds are smaller than typical *murina* of New Guinea with the top of the head in the male darker, more richly colored.

	wing	tail	culmen
Measurements: ♂, ♀ ♀	53, 52.5, 55	33, 33.5, 35	16, 15(2)

Weight: ♂, ♀ ♀ 15, 12, 13 grams.

Range: Misool Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

*Gerygone magnirostris occasa* subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 36563) collected May 2, 1955, by Jusup Khakiaj on Kofiau Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

Diagnosis: From *cobana*, *brunneipectus* and *conspicillata*, this form differs by being much more richly yellow on the abdomen, belly and under tail coverts, in this character approaching the form, *rosseliana* from the Lousiade Archipelago, from which it differs in having the throat whitish and with a brownish tinge on the pectoral area. On the upperparts it is darker, more brownish olive than the geographically neighboring forms mentioned above. Above it is close to *affinis* from northern New Guinea, although again it is much more brightly colored on the lower surface than that form.

	wing	tail	culmen
Measurements:	53.5	37	11.5 mm.

Range: Kofiau Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

Remarks: This form is described from a single specimen unfortunately, but a specimen which is so strikingly different from its geographical neighbors that it would seem to require recognition.

*Xanthotis chrysotis austera*, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 36564) collected Nov. 15, 1954, by S. Dillon Ripley at Tamulol, Misool Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

Diagnosis: From *chrysotis* this form differs by being darker and possibly somewhat smaller in size. The tone of the upperparts is darker olive, brownish. The throat is dark gray, tinted at the lower edges with olive green. The lower parts are dark, considerably darker than *chrysotis*, and much darker than *fusciventris*. This form is much brighter, more yellowish-tinted on the breast and more olive-tinted on the back than *saturator*, differing from that form as does *chrysotis*.

Measurements: 2 ♂ ♂, 2 ♀ ♀

wing	tail	culmen
♂ 96,103.5 (moult)	♂ 83,84 (moult)	♂ 29,31
♀ 92,94 (moult)	♀ 73,77 (moult)	♀ 25.5,26

Weight: ♂ 49, ♀ 38 grams.

Range: Misool Island, Netherlands New Guinea.

Remarks: The wing measurements of typical *chrysotis* fall within the range of 100-110 mm. for males and 95-100 for females. It would appear that the Misool birds are smaller than the form from the mainland of New Guinea, although lack of material and moult in two specimens prevents complete certainty in this case.